

Message Text

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USDOE FOR BILLY HILL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: GEOTHERMAL (08.0210)

1. EMBASSY 19 JUNE RECEIVED LETTER DATED 15 JUNE FOR WILLIS FROM ALAD'YEV. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOLLOWS AS PARA 3. DURING 21 JUNE MEETING AT MINISTRY OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION, SCICOUNS EXPLAINED THAT US WAS SURPRISED AT SOVIET LAST-MINUTE POSTPONEMENT OF GEOTHERMAL VISIT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO CANCEL GEOTHERMAL COOPERATION DURING 1977 JCM AND CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LEAD-TIME FOR SOVIETS TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE USDEL. CITING LETTER, MAL'TSEV STATED THAT THE GEOTHERMAL FACILITIES THAT MINPOWER WANTS USDEL TO SEE DO NOT ALL BELONG TO MINPOWER, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO "CONVINCE ALL ORGANIZATIONS TO ACCEPT THE USDEL." MAL'TSEV STATED THAT SOVIETS ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON THE VISIT, BUT OFFERED NO FURTHER INFORMATION. AYKAZYAN PROVIDED SIMILAR STORY WHEN SUBJECT RAISED BY SCICOUNS DURING MEETING AT SCST JUNE 22.

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2. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN GOSNELL/GOLDMAN CONVERSATION OF 16 JUNE, TROSHIN WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE FORTH-COMING IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF CHANCES OF ESTABLISHING FULL PROGRAM FOR USDEL. TROSHIN EXPRESSED "CERTAINTY" THAT ALL SITES COULD BE VISITED, RESERVING ONLY ON AMOUNT OF TIME NECESSARY FOR ARRANGEMENTS. DIFFERENCE

IN MAL'TSEV AND TROSHIN RESPONSES COULD WELL REFLECT DIFFERENCES IN PERSONALITIES, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT LETTER OFFERS LITTLE PROSPECT FOR SUCCESSFUL VISIT IN NEAR TERM. FURTHER, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE OVER PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION IN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN THE LONG TERM IF THE SOVIETS ARE ALREADY HAVING ACCESS DIFFICULTIES, THE MOST INTRACTABLE TYPE OF PROBLEM.

3. DEAR MR. WILLIS:

WE CONTINUE PREPARATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION IN THE USSR OF US EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF UTILIZATION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. THE VISIT PROGRAM BEING PREPARED PROVIDES FOR VISITS OF THE US EXPERTS TO A NUMBER OF GEOTHERMAL INSTALLATIONS IN THE USSR.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE UNDER OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAVE NOT YET MANAGED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR VISITS TO THE INSTALLATIONS. WE ARE DOING THIS AND THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS WILL BE SENT TO YOU LATER.

SINCERELY, PROFESSOR I. ALAD'YEV. TOON

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